Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 has been enacted by the Parliament, which intends to discourage the use of tobacco products through various control measures like total ban on advertisement of tobacco products, prohibition of smoking in public places and ban on sale of tobacco products to persons below 18 years of age and within a radius of 100 yards of educational institutions.

Registration of Chinese suppliers with DCI

51. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications of Chinese suppliers pending for registration with the DCI office as on June, 2003;

(b) whether it is a fact that the registrations pertaining to the Chinese origin companies are withheld for more than three to four months;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what remedies are being taken to correct this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) 63 sites are pending registration as on date.

(b) to (d) As per Government of India Notification No. GSR 604 (E) dated 24.8.2001, processing period of 9 months to 1 year has been provided for issuance of Registration Certificate, subject to the all documents required under the Notification being provided by the applicants. All attempts are being made to issue the Registration Certificate within this prescribed time limit. In many applications including those of Chinese manufacturers, the documentation received have been found to be inadequate and clarifications have been sought. In all cases where the documents have been reasonably satisfactory, Registration Certificates are being issued to the Chinese manufacturers.